

COUNCIL

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The discussion was then tabled until the second reading and public hearing, which is scheduled during the council's next meeting at 6:30 p.m. on April 7, 2025, at the La Grange City Hall.

In other news, former councilor Debbie Pollard came forward during the public comment portion of the meeting, sharing that she had been in contact with Kentucky Attorney General Russell Coleman with concerns about having a married couple on the council and requested that the ordinance concerning conflicts of interest, passed in 1994, be updated.

Kinsler, Jason Taylor and Laura Taylor responded, ultimately stating that instances where family members are simultaneously involved in city government or running for government positions have often occurred in years past both locally and around the nation.

Laura Taylor also said: "I have been on this council for two years prior to this term and I have seen the same people voting the same way every time ... if you're concerned about some



Photo by Grant Gerstner

Former councilor Debbie Pollard shares concerns of having a married couple on the La Grange City Council during the public comment portion of the March 3 council meeting.

kind of like minded thinking — some groupthink — I think that's a bigger concern ..."

Pollard then accused Laura and Jason Taylor of texting one another "telling each other how to do things," to which Laura Taylor denied such claims. Black and Councilor Trey Kamer also both responded to Laura Taylor's men-

tion of groupthink and denied influencing or being influenced by anyone else in their voting decisions.

In other news, the council also approved:

- A resolution authorizing the tourism department to make deposits into the La Grange Tourism bank account from transient room tax collections.

- The first reading of an ordinance amendment that would make property owners no longer solely responsible for the maintenance of lines from their buildings to the sewer main and would require a cleanout be installed at the property line.

- The La Grange Utilities financial report.

- The reappointment of Beth Bizianes and Stan Klausung, and the appointment of Susan Smith to the La Grange Historic District Commission for terms to expire the first of March in 2027, 2026 and 2027, respectively.

- A resolution opposing any bills brought forth during the 2025 Kentucky General Assembly that provides for the mandated centralized collection of local occupational fees or taxes by the state or other third parties.

The council also heard numerous reports, including:

- La Grange Police Department Chaplain Don Wright reported that, with help of the Oldham County Ministerial Fund, the department provided 16 rooms to those in need of housing during the cold weather in January and also offers \$30 of fuel at La Grange Service Center, meal vouchers

with Dairy Queen and gift cards to Speedway SuperAmerica and McDonalds.

- La Grange Main Street Director Sarah Garrett reported that the Main Street Derby will be held on March 22 at Springs Park, featuring a scavenger hunt with the chance to win a "stay-cation" in La Grange, and the first farmers market will be held on April 19.

- La Grange Tourism Director Donna Sabo reported that plans are in motion for a new mural on the back side of Champion Chevrolet Buick GMC facing Commerce Parkway, the office is working on moving to the new location at 309 W Main St. and the National Model Railroad Association and the founder of RailFan will attend RailFest to be held May 9 to May 11.

- La Grange Utilities Director Scot Treece reported that the Oldham Reserve project is in construction, the sewer rehab project bid is opening March 19 and scheduled to begin around the end of summer, the court's water rehab project bid will open July 30, the Fort Pickens tank rehab bid opened March 4 and the First Street water rehab project is in design.

- La Grange Police

Chief Greg Collett reported that the department is participating in the planning meetings of the drug task force, the department had a total of 827 activity pieces in February, the background applicant is in the complete phase and a promotional process is in progress to fill the sergeant vacancy due to Major Corey Adams' promotion.

- Public Works Director Corey Rusnak reported about 500 tons of salt were used due to snow, the sidewalk at 309 W Main St is finished, a connecting sidewalk from 309 W Main Street to Springs Park is planned to start in the Spring, the Fourth Street drainage project will start by the week of March 17 and the street light audit is expected to start soon.

- Code Enforcement Officer Stephanie Wenthler reported that 14 new cases were opened for February, 1,596 business license renewal letters have been sent, compensation tax payments collections are almost finished, no door to door sales permits have been issued despite calls of individuals going door to door and City Clean Up Day will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 19.

CENTER

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The three main concerns, each addressed by JAMP Enterprises LLC legal representative Michael Swansburg, Jr., regarded the sale of alcohol on the premises, pedestrian — likely student — crossings of Highway 393 and vehicle traffic.

Concerns about alcohol sales were brought forward in the early stages of the entertainment center's design process, mainly due to initial plans being more "alcohol-forward" in including a brewery. Such plans were altered, however, and Swansburg assured the court that alcohol sales "will be in conjunction with food, much like a normal restaurant," and that the concept was now more entertainment focused.

Furthermore, Swansburg brought attention to the fact that three other properties that border Oldham County High School already sell alcohol: Victor Liquor Store, Marathon Gas Station and Oldham County Country Club.

At the court's request, as brought up by Magistrate Stephanie Hawkins, JAMP Enterprises LLC Architect and Developer of the project Adam McIntyre agreed to a binding element to ensure no alcohol advertising will be visible from the exterior of the building.

In regard to pedestrians attempting to cross Highway 393, Swansburg mentioned that — according to state law — pedestrians crossing a roadway without using a crosswalk must yield right-of-way to all vehicles or be subjected to a \$20 to \$100 fine. Further, the design offers a significant amount of parking, dissuading attendees to park elsewhere and walk to the building.

Swansburg also noted that the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet advises to discourage pedestrian crossings with fencing or signage if the roadway isn't designed for them. Hawkins proposed adding fencing, but other magistrates doubted its effectiveness, and McIntyre added that there wasn't enough space.

In regard to concerns about traffic, Swansburg told the court that JAMP had extensive discussions with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet prior to approval by the Oldham County Planning Commission, and that the cabinet ultimately raised no objec-

tions to the development plan after assisting with the design of entrances and easements.

Magistrate Kevin Woosley voiced concerns about drive-thru traffic spilling onto Highway 393, but McIntyre noted the parking lot could handle overflow and that peak hours would likely be in the morning when fewer cars are parked, reducing the risk of blockage.

In terms of public opposition, retired Oldham County Schools Superintendent Blake Haselton told the court that, though he liked the general idea, it was in the wrong location due to the previously mentioned concerns. McIntyre and Swansburg rebutted that finding the perfect piece of land is difficult and that extensive revisions have been made to address these concerns.

Ultimately, the court approved the second reading and zoning change from I-2 Heavy Industrial to C-3 General Commercial in a vote of seven to two — magistrates Wayne Theiss and Brent Likins opposing. The discussion ended with Judge Executive Voegelé saying that "this is a needed project ... the alcohol issue, we'll have to talk [more] about later ..."

In other news, the court heard from County Clerk

Amy Alvey, who reported that the 2023 audit was completed and a check of \$8,215.41 in excess fees was turned over to the court — attributing to a total of \$602,842.17 of excess fees in 2023. Alvey also reported that her office carried out 78,814 renewals and 8,420 renewals across the county.

The court also heard from Jailer Jeff Tindall, who sought approval to purchase two new transportation vehicles because of the increasingly high mileage of the current fleet. The court approved Tindall to purchase a new van and bus, with estimated prices of \$67,000 and \$171,000 respectively after being fully equipped for inmate transportation.

The court also approved the:

- 2025 to 2026 Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Rural Secondary "Flex Funds" Resolution, allowing the cabinet to use the "Flex Funds" on rural state roads
- Surface water quality monitoring contract with Atlas Technical Consultants for \$15,100
- Kentucky Highway Safety Grant Application Resolution for the Oldham County Police Department to receive \$30,000
- North Central Kentucky Drug Task Force

Proposed Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between Oldham County and Carroll, Gallatin, Henry, Owen and Trimble counties — to be approved by the Kentucky Attorney General and Secretary of State before any funds will be allocated

- Recommendation to reduce the performance surety of Royal Oaks, phase 1, section 2 residential subdivision from \$303,509.35 to \$54,000

- Recommendation to release the remaining erosion control surety of Cherry Grove residential subdivision in the amount of \$11,200

- Recommendation to release the erosion control surety of M&H Oldham County Properties in the amount of \$10,400

- The Roof Masters LLC — stationed in Ashland, Ky. — \$107,821.87 bid to install a new, 24-gauge

standing seam metal roof on the Oldham County Fiscal Court Building and remove the two brick chimneys on the old fiscal court building

- Hiring of Katelyn Kommer and Aubrey Brown as Oldham County Parks and Recreation building monitors effective March 5, 2025

- Termination of Kenny Randolph of Oldham County Maintenance effective Feb. 26, 2025

- Rate increase of Deputy Judge Executive Joe Ender to \$71.79 an hour with a vote of seven to two — magistrates Michael Logsdon and Bob Dye opposing

The court also voted, in a five to four decision — with Voegelé, magistrates Woosley, Kevin Jeffries and Chris Haunz opposed — to deny the Pewee Valley Litter Abatement Resolution, where Pewee Valley sought

the \$1,589.01 they would have received had they not missed the application deadline due to oversight.

Those in favor of the denial explained that the funds Pewee Valley would have received are part of the total that the county receives through the state Litter Abatement Grant, and that the county has already scheduled cleanings of state roads throughout Pewee Valley with said funds. The court also heard the resignations of Oldham County Police Officer Morgan Bennett effective March 4 and Animal Control Officer Jared Banta effective Feb. 27, 2025.

The next Oldham County Fiscal Court meeting will be held at 2 p.m. on March 18 and a special meeting regarding JKS Architecture's proposed new police headquarters in Crestwood will be held at 7 p.m. on March 18, 2025.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE OLDHAM COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL TREE GIVEAWAY

SATURDAY, MARCH 15TH, 9AM-NOON

Dahlgren Pioneer Barn by Oldham County History Center, Downtown La Grange
Opportunity for Oldham County residents to take home free tree seedlings, up to 10 per household. First-come, first-served.

4TH ANNUAL LAKE AND POND MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, MARCH 22ND, 9AM-1PM

Location Provided upon Registration

This year's workshop theme is "Backyard Waters: Tailored Solutions for Pond and Lake Management". Come hear from many experts and community partners - for lake and pond owners of any level of expertise!

Contact the Oldham County Conservation District to register:
Call 502-702-9090 or Email oldhamswcd@gmail.com

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Oldham County Extension Homemakers
MEGA INSIDE YARD SALE
March 22nd
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
205 Parker Drive
La Grange, KY 40031

ALL ITEMS 1/2 PRICE
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Rain or Shine



ADOPTION EVENT
CHANGE THEIR LUCK

ADOPT-A-SENIOR OR "SPECIAL" CAT

March 16, 2025
11:00 am – 3:00 pm
2601 Interior Way, LaGrange, KY

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day and let one of our Senior, Medical, FeLV or special-purrsonality cats bring good luck and FURtune to your home.